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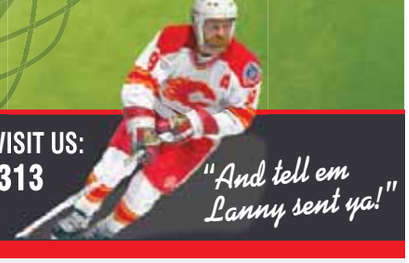

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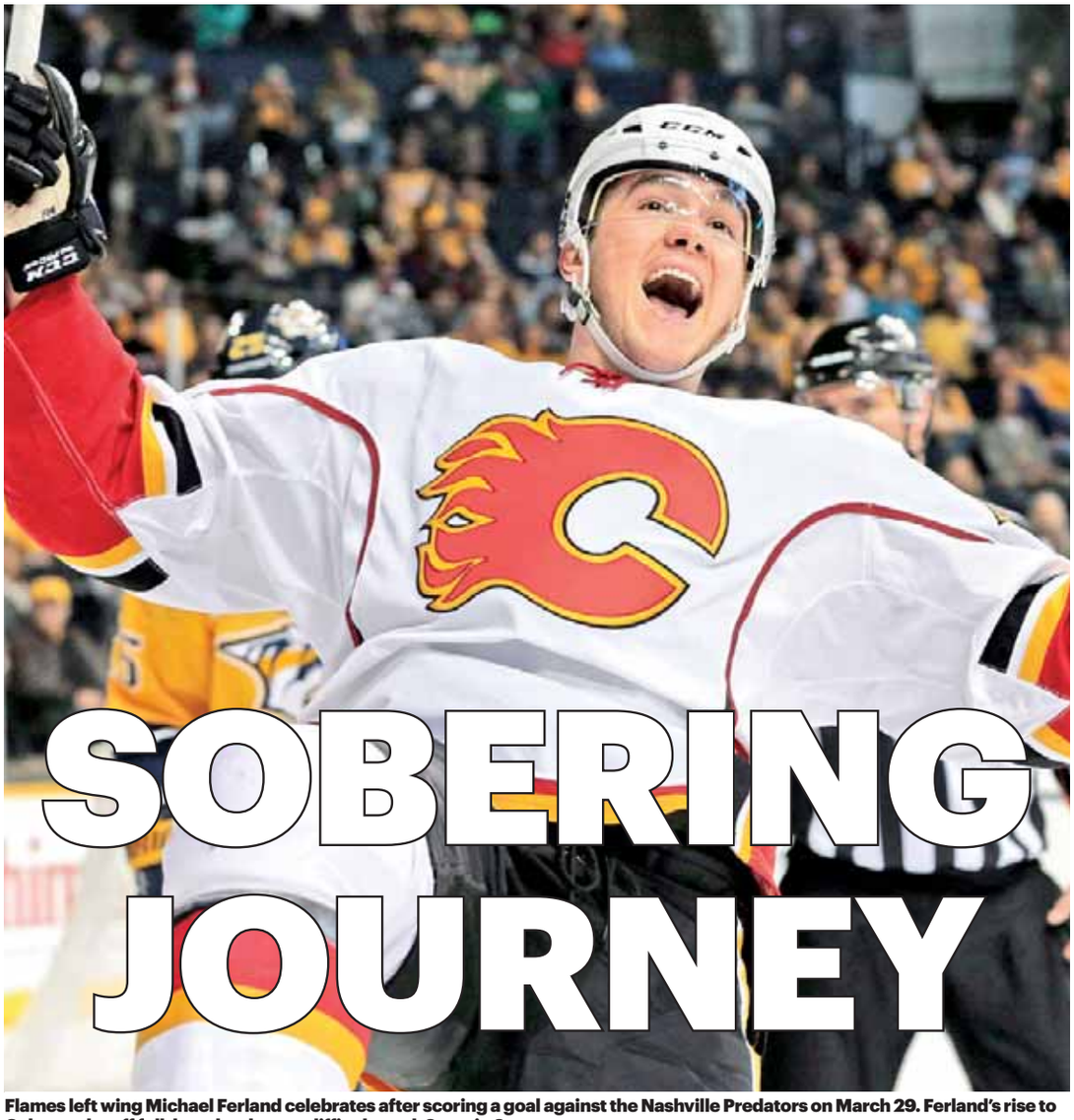

SOBERING JOURNEY

Flames left wing Michael Ferland celebrates after scoring a goal against the Nashville Predators on March 29. Ferland's rise to Calgary playoff folk hero has been a difficult road. Story in Sports. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Renters' market on the horizon

HOUSING

Drop in oil price loosens landlords' grip

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Eager renters looking for a space to call home may actually benefit from the oil bust, a market hiccup that, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Commission (CMHC), is bringing up the vacancy rate and morphing the local rental environment.

If trends continue, Calgary could be looking at a renters' marketplace. What was a predicted 1.6 per cent vacancy rate has since been refigured by the CMHC's Fall Survey and could be more like 2 per cent.

"So that was before we were able to see and really feel some of the effects of the low oil prices on local housing markets," said Felicia Mutheardy, CMHC's principal of market analysis in Calgary.

> **The demand has waned considerably, considering the economy.**
> Darren Paddock of Rentfaster.ca

Darren Paddock of Rentfaster.ca, one of Calgary's most popular rental listing sites, said they've seen available rentals rise over two years — from 2,300 listings in April 2013 to more than 4.900 in April 2015 — and have also noticed rentals take longer to fill than in the past.

"The demand has waned considerably, considering the economy," said Paddock.

Gerry Baxter, executive director of the Calgary Residential Rental Association, said he's heard mixed reviews. While landlords are breathing a sigh of relief on call volumes, some of his members in the southwest are reporting a vacancy rate around 10 per cent.

"It depends who we talk to," Baxter said.

"Everything we have is just anecdotal.... The market has changed a bit since last year at this time, certainly ... but the bulk of the feedback I get is people are still renting out their units without difficulty, but it's taking them a little bit longer and they're not getting the same amount of traffic through."

The CMHC's official report will come out this summer.

metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

A sweater was donated to the Edmonton Zoo's elephant, but she never got it.

No charges yet for false 911 calls, but they keep coming

SAFETY

Pocket dials, kids playing cost city money and resources

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

One year after Alberta enacted tough new penalties against people who make frivolous or abusive 911 calls, no charges have been laid in Calgary, but the city's emergency operators continue to receive hundreds of accidental calls daily.

That number has hovered between 300 and 400 per day for years now, said Kay Choi, deputy commander of Calgary public safety communications, and the vast majority come from cellphones.

Whether from pocket dials or young children playing with a smartphone or some other form of unintentional call, Choi said the accidental calls create a lot of work for operators — and often police, too.

"If we don't hear anything, we call them back, and if we still aren't satisfied that this is not an emergency, we have to dispatch a police resource … just to make sure everything's OK," she said.

Accidental calls add up to about $1 million in added costs per year, she added.

Operators in Calgary receive an average of 300 to 400 accidental 911 calls a day. METRO FILE

Choi advised Calgarians to make sure their phones' keypads are locked when not in use and to refrain from giving phones to young children to play with.

If you do accidentally dial 911, however, don't worry: You won't get in trouble.

Choi said many people feel embarrassed, however, and then instinctively hang up, which is precisely the wrong thing to do.

"Stay on the line with us and let us know that you don't require assistance," she advised.

Albertans who deliberately call 911 for frivolous reasons or to abuse operators, however, can face fines of up to $5,000 for a first offence and $10,000 for subsequent offences under a new provincial law that came into effect in April 2014.

So far, a spokesman for Municipal Affairs said the province is aware of two charges under the new law — one in southern Alberta and one in central Alberta.

500,000

The approximate number of emergency 911 calls operators in Calgary received last year. That's up 15 per cent from 2009.

70%

The proportion of 911 calls last year that originated from mobile phones.

300

Calgary receives more than 300 accidental 911 calls each day, on average. Each is treated as a genuine emergency until deemed otherwise.

20%

Accidental calls make up more than 20 per cent of the daily 911 call volume.

POLITICS

Council meeting held with no prayer

On Monday, for the first time in decades, Calgary's mayor and city councillors gathered for a full meeting and didn't begin with an opening prayer.

The change came in response to last week's Supreme Court ruling that directed the municipal council in Saguenay, Que., to cease beginning its meetings with a Catholic prayer.

Numerous municipal councils immediately stopped reading prayers in the wake of the decision, while Mayor Naheed Nenshi said the city's law department would look into the matter.

Monday's special council meeting was a behind-closed-doors affair on respectful workplace environments, held as part of the sensitivity training members of council agreed last December to take following numerous complaints about inappropriate behaviour within city hall.

Under a policy in place since 1986, meetings such as this would have opened with a non-denominational prayer.

A spokesperson for the mayor's office said the prayer was omitted Monday to "make sure" council wasn't contravening the Supreme Court decision. Council will be briefed on the matter before the next regular meeting, where it will deliberate on whether a new policy is actually needed. That meeting is set for April 27.

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School boards unite in objection to budget

EDUCATION

Province says trustees need to spend, not bank, dollars

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Trustees representing 19 districts and two-thirds of Alberta students stood shoulder-to-shoulder Monday to collectively object to a provincial budget they believe will damage instruction quality, cripple supports for vulnerable students, and lead to a rise in high-school dropouts.

The showing of solidarity was touted as unprecedented, as, generally, school board representatives advocate more in silos, speaking specifically to the concerns faced by their own organizations.

"Boards came together and said, 'You know what? This isn't right and we want to work together,'" said Joy Bowen-Eyre, trustee chair for the Calgary Board of Education, which has pegged its shortfall ahead of the 2015-16 school year at nearly $30 million.

Further ramping up the pressure, according to Bowen-Eyre, was an apparent freeze put on the reserves stashed for rainy days for school boards.

Initial correspondence from then-Education Minister Gordon Dirks on March 26 budget day stated that funds in the Accumulated Surplus from Operations (ASO) pile could only be used to aid with "transition planning."

Dirks technically left the post when the writ was dropped and is now campaigning for re-election in Calgary-Elbow. During a series of questions from reporters at his campaign headquarters Tuesday, he encouraged boards to dip into their stockpiles if need be, but again appeared to attach a caveat.

"We encourage all boards to access reserves to transition to support front-line services in the coming year," he said.

Dirks reiterated several times that there is a total of $461 million stashed in the reserve accounts belonging to 63 school boards

"We provide them with money not for reserves, we provide them with money to provide the very best front-line teaching services that they can and, over the years, boards have not spent all the money," he said, adding when he informs Calgary-Elbow constituents of the banked funds, they say back to him, "The CBE needs to make sure it's spending its money on front-line classroom services, not in the large headquarters budget, and there's hundreds of millions of dollars spent on non-teaching costs in the CBE and in other school boards."

Provincial figures indicate the CBE has nearly $37 million in its ASO currently, but the board has said it spends $6.5 million on operations per school day and that total amount represents just 3.1 per cent of its annual operating budget.

Meanwhile, even in the midst of an economic downturn, the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District anticipate an additional 4,000 students will flood into their classrooms this fall. The 2015 provincial education budget did not allocate funds for those students.

There are also cuts planned for grants used to fund transportation, supports for English-language learners, aboriginal students, and others.

"There's only one taxpayer and we want to be good stewards of the public purse, but what we're saying is, while we're expecting cuts, never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect the government would not fund us for student growth," said Linda Wellman, trustee chair for the Catholic district. "So, he (Dirks) is not asking us to do the same with less, the government is asking growing boards to do more with less."

Bowen-Eyre said it's not too late for the government to change course on its financial plan.

Calgary Catholic School District trustee chairwoman Linda Wellman speaks about the impact of the 2015 education budget while surrounded by colleagues from a number of other boards.
JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

> **Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect the government would not fund us for student growth.**
> Linda Wellman, trustee chair for Catholic district

JOINT EFFORT

Opponent says tide turning against Tories

Alberta school boards have attempted to "play along" with the 44-year-old Progressive Conservative government but Monday's united front against the provincial budget was evidence that attitudes are changing, said Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark. Clark finished second to former education funding Gordon Dirks in a fall by-election and is again challenging him in Calgary-Elbow.

HEALTH

Moving millions excessive: Mandel

The man at the head of Alberta's health portfolio prior to the writ being dropped says more recruiting needs to be done within the province's boundaries and is vowing far tighter restraints on relocation costs for incoming employees.

Stephen Mandel, the Progressive Conservative candidate in Edmonton-Whitemud, made his position clear Monday on more than $3.1 million in moving expenses racked up by Alberta Health Services between April 2011 and November 2014.

Metro first printed details of the bills, which were obtained through a freedom of information request by the Wildrose and included more than $116,000 to bring in a single vice-president from Ontario, late Sunday.

"What happened with this particular situation was undefendable, unjustifiable and, really, something that will never happen if I am health minister," Mandel said.

He said AHS is now under the watch of a "fiscal hawk" in new president and CEO Vickie Kaminski, who herself relocated to Alberta from Newfoundland in mid-2014 at a cost to taxpayers of $23,329. That bill was far below a number of others racked up by employees moving into Alberta from closer distances.

Alberta opposition parties said scandals are keeping the province from focusing on what's important, and how this is another example of the provincewide shift that is needed.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO
WITH FILES FROM RYAN TUMILTY

COLLISION

Dragged by car, woman to recover: Family

Police gather evidence at the scene on Sunday.
ANNA BROOKS/METRO

The family of a woman pinned beneath a vehicle during an incident in front of a northeast Calgary dollar store Sunday said she's expected to pull through.

Preeti Sharma, 34, who operates the Krish Dollar & Gift Bazaar, remains in hospital and is expected to undergo further tests, according to her cousin Karan Kaushik.

He said physicians have determined Sharma's right tibia was fractured and needs a surgically inserting rod to stabilize it.

"They thought originally she had a head injury or something," Kaushik said. "They're still doing tests to see if she has other minor injuries."

Investigators said the incident began in front of Sharma's store when she was entering a parking stall while a 2003 Jeep Liberty was reversing out of an adjacent stall. Sharma got out of her car to talk with the Jeep driver, when the Jeep moved forward and dragged her under the off-road vehicle's front passenger-side wheel, police said.

Employee Ravinder Sidhu began her shift a few hours after the incident Sunday. She's been working at the store since 2011, and said Sharma is a wonderful person to work for.

"She's really helpful and nice to every single person," Sidhu said. "He hit her two times. We're hoping that we can catch him."
ANNA BROOKS AND JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Wagdi Iskander is seen in this Facebook photo. FACEBOOK

Police charge pastor in sex assault case

CRIME

Ex-minister accused of '94 molesting of 11-year-old

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police have charged a former pastor in relation to a historical sexual assault that took place in 1994.

Sgt. Robert Rutledge said 52-year-old Wagdi Yuosif Iskander has been accused of several sexual incidents that happened over the course of two years. Rutledge said the alleged assaults on the then-11-year-old victim happened during counselling sessions with the pastor, and continued on until the victim was around 13 years old.

> **We're looking at approximately 50 to 60 incidents of sexual touching.**
> Sgt. Robert Rutledge

"We're looking at approximately 50 to 60 incidents of sexual touching, masturbation and molestation," Rutledge said.

The victim first came forward to police in 1996, but Rutledge said the family did not want to pursue the matter through the court system due to the child's young age. At the time of the alleged incidents, Iskander was a pastor at the Arabic Baptist Church, which is now known today at the Arabic Alliance Church.

Rutledge said the victim, now almost 30 years of age, came forward again in 2012.

"The victim and family contacted us again in 2012 and asked the matter be re-opened for the possibility of criminal charges being laid," Rutledge explained. "Some victims need that time period to feel safe or have that family support."

With the investigation ongoing, Iskander has been charged with sexual assault and sexual interference with a child under 14. Iskander has been released on the promise to appear four to six weeks from now in court.

Iskander is known in the church community as being a prolific public speaker.

IN BRIEF

Three displaced after SW four-plex fire

An Enmax employee was Johnny-on-the-spot Monday, alerting two sleeping residents to a fire in a southwest Calgary four-plex.

Firefighters were called out around 12:40 p.m. after reports of smoke and flames coming from the balcony of one unit of the multi-family dwelling on Galbraith Drive SW.

The blaze was immediately contained to the originating suite, fire officials said. The unit suffered moderate fire and smoke damage and three residents are temporarily displaced, the fire department said. Fire investigators said the incident was accidental, originating on the balcony. No injuries were reported. METRO

Judge orders psychiatric exam for Alberta teen

A judge has ordered a psychiatric assessment for an Alberta teen charged with terror-related offences. The 17-year-old boy, who cannot be identified, was arrested last month on allegations he was planning to leave Canada to fight with Islamic State militants. Provincial court Judge Steven Andrew granted the 30-day assessment, but details of the application hearing are subject to a publication ban.

RCMP arrested the boy in Beaumont, a bedroom community south of Edmonton. The youth is charged with attempting to leave the country to participate in a terrorist group and attempting to leave the country to commit a terrorist activity, "namely murder."

He is to appear in court again May 7.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aisha Shuaib, a second-year student at the University of Calgary, questions the provincial government's priorities as her school again faces a financial shortfall. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

U of C faces 'painful' shortfall to budget

EDUCATION

Salaries frozen as school may face potential $47M gap

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Students and faculty at the University of Calgary heard Monday that the institution has a fiscal "hill" to climb, one that will require tens of millions in new revenue or cuts over the coming two years.

All told, the school with big aspirations to become a premiere research and international institution will face a $6-million hole for the 2015-16 year and another $11 million the year after. But those shortfalls combined with anticipated raises for staff and faculty as well as inflation could drive the overall gap as high as $47 million, said provost Dru Marshall.

"We're taking cuts where we think cuts can be made," she told a packed theatre during a budget town hall. "(It's) still very, very painful, I would say."

The cuts come after the province trimmed Campus Alberta grants by 1.4 per cent and 2.7 per cent over the next two years, respectively. The cuts were actually far less substantial than the originally anticipated five-per-cent annual reductions.

Even still, the university said it's delving into a detailed conversation on how to save and bring in additional dough. Marshall told the crowd the university will look "different" in a few years' time.

In an admittedly more symbolic than substantive measure, the U of C will freeze senior leadership salaries for roughly 50 members, including Marshall, president Elizabeth Cannon as well as other vice-presidents and deans.

"It is, we think, an important statement," Marshall said. "We know the government has announced freezes for their senior executives. We thought it was the prudent thing to do given the financial situation we find ourselves in."

INVESTIGATION

Fire rips through homes

Several families were forced to flee and unable to return after a major fire tore through four homes in northwest Calgary Monday afternoon.

The blaze broke out in the community of Hidden Valley and when crews arrived at 4:30 p.m., the flames were already so strong that firefighters couldn't initially enter the home where the blaze originated.

Crews immediately called a second alarm as the fire had already begun to spread to adjacent houses, said fire department spokeswoman Carol Henke.

Family members in one of the heavily damaged homes fled to their neighbour Shelley Osmond's house.

"They were in the kitchen making dinner and two loud explosions went off and shook the house," Osmond said Monday evening. "The eight-year-old looked out the window and saw the house next door in just tons of fire, and they ran out of the house. They just grabbed everybody and ran."

Osmond is collecting donations for her friend — a single mom — as well as the family next door.

"They were renters with no insurance and they run a day home," she said. "They're in a really tough spot right now so we're just trying to help everybody as much as we can."

Osmond invited people to drop off donated items like clothes, toiletries or gift cards for the families at her home at 132 Hidden Ranch Hill NW.

She said neither she nor her friends knew the people who lived in the home where the fire originated.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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Staff Sgt. Doug Andrus said investigators are seeking information from the public in relation to the city's eighth homicide victim of 2015, identified as Rodney Conway, inset. METRO FILE

Eighth homicide victim of year ID'd

INVESTIGATION

Questions remain over Saturday death of 44-year-old

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police identified 44-year-old Rodney Conway on Monday as the city's eighth homicide victim of 2015.

Conway's body was found about 8 a.m. Saturday outside Chetlen Auto Tech & Tire in the Willow Park area after a witness called 911 to report a man who appeared to be in distress.

Staff Sgt. Doug Andrus said Monday that police now believe there was "a confrontation" in a nearby parking lot just prior to Conway's death.

"After the confrontation, he made his way to the parking lot, to the corner of the building, where he collapsed and was found deceased," Andrus said, adding police believe the offender and victim were known to each other.

A 44-year-old man named Rodney Conway was recently listed on the Calgary Crime Stoppers most-wanted list, citing a warrant for his arrest that was issued on Jan. 15 for "Fail to comply."

Andrus said he couldn't speak to any criminal history of the deceased.

Autopsy results still weren't available Monday.

Police took three people into custody from the Travelodge on Sunridge Boulevard N.E. — one of them following a 13-hour standoff — for questioning, but Andrus said all three were later released.

> **After the confrontation ... he collapsed and was found deceased.**
> Doug Andrus

Investigators then turned their attention to a 20-year-old woman believed to have been a friend of Conway's who has information about his death.

They released a photo of the woman Monday but not her name. She was located a short time later.

Anyone else with information about the case is asked to call the police homicide tip line at 403-428-8877 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

CALGARY-FORT

Star candidate for NDP paying off in close race: Recent poll

It looks like bringing out a star candidate has paid dividends in Calgary–Fort for the Alberta NDP, which has a 10-point lead over the Wildrose, according to a new poll released Monday.

Former Calgary city councillor Joe Ceci leads the race with the support of 37 per cent of respondents to a Mainstreet Technologies poll.

The poll surveyed 397 people through IVR telephone calls in the riding and carries a margin of error of plus or minus 4.98 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

In second place was Wildrose candidate Jeevan Mangat, with 27 per cent of respondents' support.

The PC candidate, Andy Nguyen, was a distant third with 15 per cent, tied with undecided voters. METRO

Joe Ceci, left, and Rachel Notley. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Tiny house may stay put

BOWNESS

Woman told to vacate saved by councillor's intervention

Nancy Shadlock — whose world was turned upside-down last week after her tiny home was nearly booted out of its northwest neighbourhood — has landed on her feet after learning she may be allowed to stay put and not have to move her tailor-made trailer home.

"It's better than I expected," Shadlock said. "I'm glad that they're at least talking about it. I think in the near future we're all going to need to talk about other ways of living."

Last week, a complaint led to city bylaw officers handing Shadlock a notice informing her she would have to move "immediately." That same day, an interested Coun. Ward Sutherland gathered information and immediately sought a solution with the city.

Sutherland called Shadlock and said she would need to go through the process of applying for a development permit and hook her home up to city water and sewage to keep it intact.

When Metro asked if this case would set a precedent for other similar homes, development and assessment officials responded in an email: "Nothing has changed for zoning yet — that's not to say that we wouldn't make any changes in the future.

"Since it is a self-containing unit, we would treat it the same as a backyard suite."

HELEN PIKE/METRO

Nancy Shadlock, whose tiny home is parked in Bowness, was given a bylaw letter ordering her to vacate. CONTRIBUTED

GROW CALGARY

Group surprised by city demolition order

Grow Calgary members were caught by surprise Monday when the city handed them a demolition order for their experimental structures.

Three weeks — that's about how long the volunteer-run urban farm has to tear down the structures the city deemed unsafe.

Last week, Ross McDougall, chief building inspector for the city, told Metro there was no way the structures — built from materials that aren't compliant with the Alberta building code — would be acceptable.

Paul Hughes of Grow Calgary said the notice was unexpected. He and his fellow volunteers have been talking to nine other city departments to try to find a solution.

"There's precedent for this," said Hughes. "We're now working with the Green Building Technology access centre with SAIT and Stantec.... They're going to act on our behalf."

Although the structures may be deemed questionable by the city, Hughes suggested they wouldn't be coming down easy.

"This all happened really, really quick," Hughes said. "At the end of the day we're still volunteers."

The order, dated for May 8, states Grow Calgary must destroy all structures, remove all debris, backfill, grade the area and contact the authority with jurisdiction once the demolition is complete.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

Scott Davidson works on a Grow Calgary lot. HELEN PIKE/METRO

IN BRIEF

Possible domestic assault sends woman to hospital

A woman was taken to hospital Monday afternoon in potentially life-threatening condition after suffering severe injuries in an assault in northwest Calgary.

Det. Jack Russell said the woman was found in a ditch near the Remand Centre on 85th Street N.W. shortly before 1 p.m.

One man was taken into custody for questioning.

Police said the initial investigation suggests it was a domestic assault. METRO

Ponzi schemer gets 5 years for bilking victims of $1.3M

A southern Alberta man has been sentenced to five years in prison for defrauding investors out of $1.3 million dollars.

Anthony Pittarelli, 46, was sentenced in Court of Queen's Bench in Lethbridge for his part in what the judge called a significant Ponzi scheme, where people were invited to invest in an entertainment event ticket reselling business that did not exist.

CJOC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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LAUNCH

A new chapter with 'little free library'

Barbara Cutshaw of Alex Youth Health Centre. METRO

Stress and estrangement from the community are just a few things clients of the Alex Youth Health Centre face every day.

But youth like J.J. expect these struggles to lessen with the centre's new neighbourhood "little free library" set to launch this week.

"Reading a book can allow you to distance yourself from the troubles you deal with everyday, which is something many youth of the Alex might not have had the resources to do before," J.J. explained.

J.J. said that in his experience, a lot of youth clients face isolation from the community because of life circumstances, adding to a "feeling of hopelessness." But with the little free library, estranged youth and members of the community can share and connect with each other through literature.

"I think the library will be beneficial because it helps connect these two seemingly separate groups," J.J. said.

Kelsey Cunningham, a youth-support specialist at the Alex, said the library — a revamped newspaper box painted with graffiti-style art by a youth artist — is also a tool for teaching young people about reciprocity.

"The whole neighbourhood can give and take," Cunningham said.

ANNA BROOKS/METRO

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Tracey Ferencz plays the lead in Becky's New Car, which tells the relatable tale of a woman's struggle with her mid-life crisis. ANNA BROOKS/METRO

Take a ride in Becky's New Car

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Comedy with 'heart' to be final play of the season

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Mid-life crises, economic slumps and the uncertainty of the future are things most Calgarians can relate to.

The Alberta Theatre Projects' spring show, Becky's New Car, is about just that.

Tracey Ferencz, who plays the main character Becky, said it's interesting to see the play's connection with Calgary audiences, especially during fiscally tumultuous times.

"It's a comedy, but within that there's a real heart to the show," Ferencz said.

"Because of what's happening with oil, people are anticipating a difficult time ahead, which is something they can relate to in the show."

The protagonist is a married, middle-aged woman wondering if there's more to the life she's living. She faces some real choices when a handsome billionaire walks into her life.

Ferencz added that distribution of wealth is another theme Calgarians can connect to.

"I think the class system in the play is really interesting," Ferencz said.

"Calgary is full of that; there's a lot of money here and not so much money there."

Atypical of your traditional on-stage play, Becky's New Car connects to viewers on a different level by actually incorporating audience members into the show itself; viewers are called up on stage and help Becky get dressed and do things around the house.

"What I think sets it apart is Becky talks directly to the audience," she said.

"The audience becomes complicit in the story, which makes it a more intimate experience."

UPCOMING

Becky's New Car is showing at Arts Commons in the Martha Cohen Theatre until April 25.

A photo of the Penguin Car Wash interior. The soon-to-be redeveloped building will house 35 artists in June. CAITLIND R.C. BROWN/CONTRIBUTED

Ex-car wash to be artists' space

WRECK CITY

Artists group adopts, adapts unused urban locations

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

After months of meeting with developers, dreaming of abandoned properties and brokering delicate deals, Wreck City is finally ready to launch a "call for artists" and make the long-awaited space announcement for its newest project: DEMO TAPE.

The location, wedged just past the border of historic Inglewood, overlooking the CP Rail tracks and the Bow River, is the old Penguin Car Wash in Ramsay, where an undisclosed number of artists will be re-imagining space and creating another Wreck City project.

"Ideally we'd like a mix of indoor and outdoor pieces," said Natalie McLean, one of the co-curators. "We took a different approach to this project, in all our other projects we had a space first, and then made a project based on that — so it's been an interesting challenge."

DEMO TAPE is described as an exhibit focusing on works that beg the viewer to participate in art. The project will immerse viewers in the works of 35 artists, collectives and collaborative teams. It's free and open to the public from June 19 to 28.

"It's a very different space than what we've worked in before," said McLean. "There's big garages, it's right on the bike path, the location is beautiful."

Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said the project is great for the city and he's excited about the Inglewood-Ramsay location.

"It's going to be really interesting to see what the arts community does not just with the structure but also with the location — there's an amazing view — it's got this historic crossroads, it's got the railroad track, it's basically at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers where the city was founded," said Carra. "I can't wait to see what the artists do, because WRECK CITY is awesome."

> **"There's big garages, it's right on the bike path, the location is beautiful.**
> Co-curator Natalie McLean

In 2013, Wreck City was planned as a one-time interactive art show featuring more than 100 artists who transformed a bundle of homes destined for demolition. Now a collective, the group is taking on more projects in alternative spaces as they become available.

Visit www.wreckcity.ca.

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Egg shopping: It's all or nothing

CHALLENGE DAY 1

Reporter tries, fails to buy two eggs instead of whole carton

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

I couldn't buy a couple of eggs.

I grew up in Rwanda, and I still remember young men and women walking through downtown streets — and other parts of the country — with baskets, selling all sorts of food items. An egg would go for less than 20 cents. It would be about the same price as buying the egg in a restaurant or at a food store. Whether your budget allowed for one, two, three or the entire pack, you'd have a choice.

After embracing the challenge to live on $1.75 a day, I realized in downtown Toronto, things were different. I'd set out on a shopping spree with my tiny budget and had hoped to get at least two eggs for less than a dollar, something I thought should be easy enough.

But no store would allow me to buy just two eggs — not a single store among a handful that I visited. A couple of stores had two or three boiled eggs already packaged, but the price was way outside what I could afford on my budget.

As I was pounding the streets looking for eggs, I kept thinking about the poor person, with just a few spare cents, looking for an egg or two but constantly being told to buy the whole carton.

Yes, a dozen eggs sell for about $4, and that's about 33 cents for each. But if you're among Toronto's poor, unless you have access to a farmers' market, your choices on a tight budget are limited. And it's not as if the city is free of poor people. We just learned, in fact, that 264,000 adults here are living on poverty-level wages, according to the latest Metcalf Foundation report.

It may not be surprising to see someone buy just a bottle of cooking oil, one jar of juice or a single bun from the bakery section. I've never really thought that it might be all they can afford. I'm more likely to assume they're just picking up one single item missing from the fridge.

Now that I've been that person buying three tomatoes, a handful of mushrooms, a can of beans and asking for only two eggs, I have a different perspective.

LIVING BELOW THE LINE

The reporter: Gilbert Ngabo works for Metro in Toronto. He moved to Canada from Rwanda five years ago.

The mission: To live on just $1.75 a day for five days — a challenge made to all Canadians by the Global Poverty Project, which says that's the daily budget of those who live below the poverty line.

The series: Day 1 of 5, Gilbert tries and fails to buy a couple of eggs. Not six, not a dozen. Two.

Follow Gilbert Ngabo on Twitter @dugilbo or at metronews.ca.

Gilbert Ngabo tries his luck at finding two eggs at Loblaws in Toronto on Monday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Struck out again at a Shoppers Drug Mart. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

GROCERIES

Egg search, store by store

At a downtown Toronto No Frills on Sunday, I bought a can of beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, a slab of cheese and some pita, but they wouldn't let me buy individual eggs. So I set off Monday to try to find two eggs.

— An employee at a Shoppers Drug Mart looked at me incredulously before saying there was no way I could be given just two separate eggs.

— A Metro store had a six-pack of eggs for $2.99, but my budget would only allow for two eggs under a loonie, combined. A staff member told me she had never seen anyone trying to buy just a few eggs. They did have a packet with two boiled eggs, but it would have cost $1.12.

— It was the same story at Loblaws, where a pair of boiled eggs goes for a little less than a toonie.

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Minister's blue shoes mark federal budget

POLITICS

Blueprint to be augmented with host of measures

The symbolism of Finance Minister Joe Oliver donning a pair of Tory-blue sneakers on Monday for the traditional new-budget-shoes photo op shouldn't be lost on anyone.

A federal election date may yet be six months away, but Tuesday's promised delivery of the Harper government's first balanced spending blueprint in eight years means the Conservatives are already off and running.

The well-orchestrated march to the 2015 general election began more than a year ago, when the government presented a 2014 budget that, it turns out, could have reasonably showed a surplus — but held off the big reveal until Canadians were closer to the ballot box.

The parliamentary budget office last week predicted 2014-15 will come in $3.4 billion in the black — a possible jump start on those "New Balance" runners Oliver slipped on at a Toronto shoe store.

The long march continued last Halloween at a campaign-style event in Vaughan, Ont., where Prime Minister Stephen Harper rolled out a five-year, $27-billion package of improvements to family benefits and targeted tax cuts — a sort of rolling campaign barrage timed to light up the fireworks in July when families receive their first retroactive benefit cheques.

Between Tuesday's budget launch and those family cheques, there will be an orgy of government self-promotion, with $7.5 million already earmarked for "economic action plan" advertising.

These set pieces of the Conservative re-election campaign will be augmented with a host of smaller measures aimed up shoring up perceived weaknesses and bolstering perceived strengths. Headlining it will be the return to surplus, backstopped by proposed balanced-budget legislation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver and his new budget shoes in Toronto on Monday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRADITION

It is a Canadian custom for finance ministers to purchase or wear new shoes for Budget Day.

Is it Q or q? CBC clarifies position

So, which name will it be?

Last week, CBC announced the new Shad-hosted version of its arts-and-culture radio program, titled Q, was getting a little makeover.

Before Shad's first show aired Monday, the public broadcaster clarified its position.

The CBC said in a tweet that the show's logo would use a small q, but for "clarity and readability," the program would otherwise be referred to with an uppercase Q in written communication. But late Monday, the CBC scrapped that plan and said it would be sticking with q after all.

The rebrand was viewed as another step by the CBC to distance itself from former host Jian Ghomeshi, who was fired in October amid sexual-assault charges.

Ghomeshi faces seven counts of sexual assault and one of overcoming resistance by choking, but his lawyer has said he will plead not guilty to all charges. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mohamed Fahmy to get new Canadian passport

In an abrupt reversal of its position, the federal government announced Monday that it was prepared to issue a passport to a Canadian journalist on trial in Egypt on widely denounced terror charges.

Al Jazeera English journalist Mohamed Fahmy spent more than a year in a Cairo prison and has been working to get a passport ever since his release on bail in February. His original passport was seized upon his arrest in December 2013. The Canadian government had been refusing to give him a new one, citing his bail conditions.

But on Monday, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander said that the situation had changed, though it is unclear why. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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World Vision

Migrant crisis perplexes EU

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Leaders to meet Thursday in Brussels

Shaken by the feared drowning of hundreds of people in the latest Mediterranean tragedy, European leaders struggled Monday for an adequate response in the face of unremitting migrant flows and continued instability in Libya that has given free rein to human traffickers.

Even as the search continued for victims of the weekend disaster that left as many as 950 people feared dead, coast guard ships rushed to respond to new distress calls on the high seas — two off Libya and a third boat that ran aground near Greece.

Decrying what he called an "escalation in these death voyages," Italian Premier Matteo Renzi urged Europe to put the focus on preventing more boats from leaving Libya, the source of 90 per cent of migrant traffic to Italy.

"We are facing an organized criminal activity that is making lots of money, but above all ruining many lives," Renzi said at a joint news conference with Malta's prime minister, Joseph Muscat.

1,300

The EU has been under increasing criticism for lagging in its response to the crisis, with two shipwrecks believed to have taken the lives of as many as 1,300 migrants in the past week.

He compared their activity to that of slave traders of centuries past, "unscrupulous men who traded human lives."

The European Union foreign affairs chief, Federica Mogherini, said this weekend's appalling human toll — which, if verified, would be the deadliest migrant tragedy ever — had "finally" fully awakened the European Union to the evils of human trafficking.

The EU has been under increasing criticism for lagging in its response to the crisis, with two shipwrecks believed to have taken the lives of as many as 1,300 migrants in the past week. Some 400 people are believed to have drowned in another capsizing on April 13.

Stopping the traffickers will be a key item on the agenda when EU leaders meet in an emergency summit Thursday in Brussels, along with a proposal to double spending on sea patrols off Europe's southern border. The 10-point plan includes a proposal to take "civil-military" action modeled on previous operations in the Horn of Africa to combat Somali piracy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man rescues a migrant from the Aegean Sea Monday, in the eastern island of Rhodes. Greek authorities said that at least three people have died, including a child, after a wooden boat carrying migrants ran aground off the island.

ARGIRIS MANTIKOS/EUROKINISSI VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

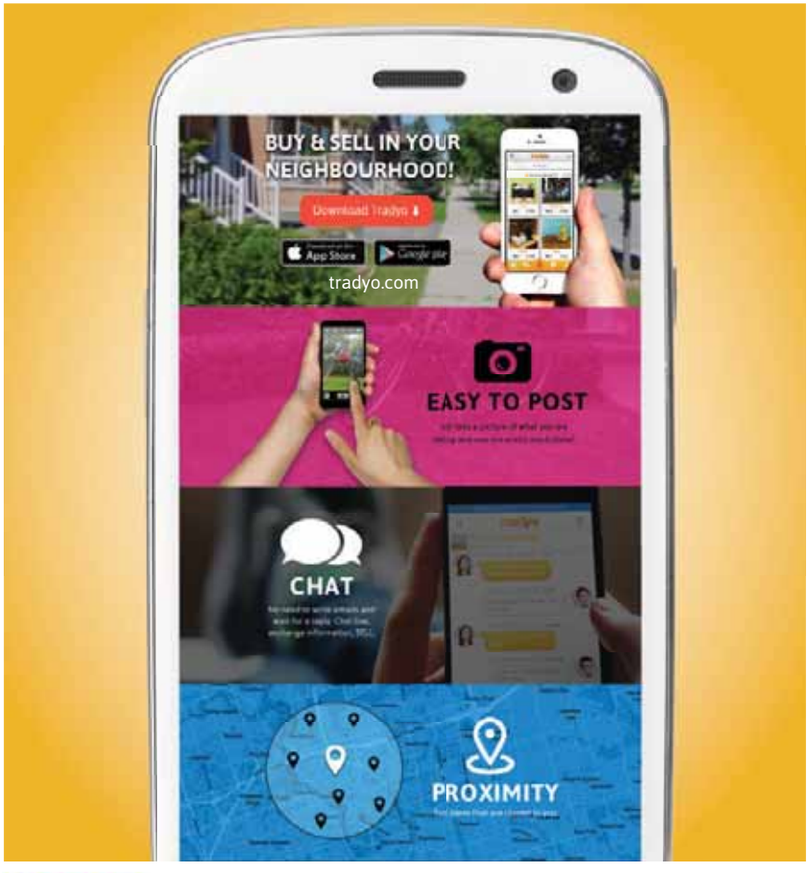
IN BRIEF

Immigrants flee South Africa after deadly attacks

Worried about their safety, hundreds of African immigrants headed out of South Africa on Monday following deadly attacks on foreign-owned shops. The attacks, in which seven people have been killed this month, have angered many across the continent. South African diplomats in two other African countries reported threats of reprisal attacks because of the violence at home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen flatten houses

Saudi-led airstrikes hit weapons caches held by Iran-backed Shiite rebels, touching off massive explosions Monday in Yemen's capital that killed at least 19 people and buried scores of others under the rubble. The U.S. Navy, meanwhile, has dispatched the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt toward the waters off Yemen to join other American ships prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the rebels, U.S. officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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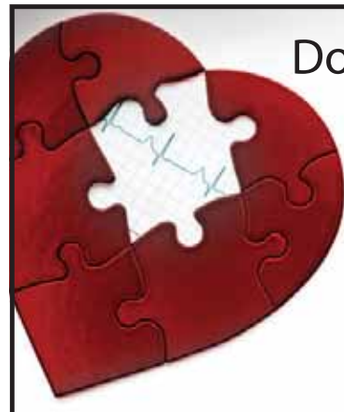

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Poles offended by Holocaust remark

DIPLOMACY

FBI director suggested nation had role in slaughter

The entrance to the former Nazi death camp complex of Auschwitz in Oswiecim, Poland. FBI director James Comey has caused huge offence by suggesting that Poles were accomplices in the Holocaust. ALIK KEPLICZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Barack Obama did it, and now the FBI director has done it. Each time it has caused huge offence to a U.S. ally: using language to suggest that Poles were accomplices in the Holocaust.

Poles were waiting to see if FBI director James Comey would issue an apology — something that hadn't happened by late Monday. Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna said he expected him to say sorry so the matter can be settled.

Comey said last week, "In their minds, the murderers and accomplices of Germany, and Poland, and Hungary, and so many, many other places didn't do something evil.

"They convinced themselves it was the right thing to do, the thing they had to do. That's what people do. And that should truly frighten us."

Comey's comments are particularly offensive to Poles not only because they had no role in running Auschwitz and other death camps where Jews were murdered during the Second World War, but because they were themselves victims of the Third Reich. In all, six million Polish citizens were killed during the war, about half of them Jewish and the other half Christians, with many Polish priests, members of the intelligentsia and political resistance killed in Auschwitz and elsewhere.

Poland also had a committed anti-Nazi resistance movement.

Comey originally delivered the remarks on Wednesday at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in arguing for the importance of Holocaust education.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Kraft Dinner to remove artificial colour

Kraft is pledging to remove synthetic colouring from its Canadian Kraft Dinner Original product by the end of 2016. This year will mark the last that the original version of Kraft Mac & Cheese, as it is sold in the U.S., will contain artificial preservatives or synthetic colours. Kraft said its macaroni and cheese would be coloured using paprika, annatto and turmeric as it tries to adapt to a huge shift away from processed foods in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

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GOLD $1,193.70 US (-$9.40)

NATURAL GAS: $2.536 US (-9.8¢)
DOW JONES: 18,034.93 (+208.63)

Cirque du Soleil founder keeps kids out of Big Top

ENTERTAINMENT

Guy Laliberté sells his circus to U.S., Chinese investors

The force behind Cirque du Soleil's nearly 31-year run as a world-renowned Canadian success story is selling the famed circus even though his seven-year-old daughter has dreams of one day becoming a clown.

"I truly don't believe in second-generation entrepreneurship," Guy Laliberté told a news conference on Monday after announcing the sale to a U.S. private equity firm.

Laliberté, 55, has five children between the ages of seven and 18, but said that having them take over the Cirque was never really an option. "From the outset, I didn't want to put the pressure of running the circus on their shoulders."

Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté speaks to the media at a news conference Monday in Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The creator of the Cirque, which wowed the world with breathtaking and cutting-edge shows, will maintain a 10 per cent stake in the Montreal-based company through his family trust and will provide strategic and creative input.

Equity firm TPG is acquiring a 60 per cent stake for an undisclosed price. Chinese investment firm Fosun will have a 20 per cent stake and Quebec pension fund manager the Caisse de dépôt another 10 per cent.

The transaction — which Laliberté said wasn't a "fire sale" at a reported value of around $1.5 billion — will also see partner Dubai World sell its 10 per cent stake.

Laliberté dismissed any suggestions the Cirque is in financial difficulty, saying it is a profitable venture that sells 11 million tickets a year. He said the sale will be good for the Cirque as it aligns with partners that can nearly double its growth by piercing the complex Chinese market and expanding third-party licensing deals and digital media.

Although the new owners have made a commitment to Investment Canada to preserve the Cirque's Montreal headquarters, there's no written guarantee. But incoming chairman Mitch Garber said TPG understands the company's core value is its Quebec-based creativity.

Laliberté rejected a newspaper cartoon that showed U.S. flags flying over the Cirque's big top. He likened the Cirque to other Quebec-based companies like Alimentation Couche-Tard, Molson Coors, Bombardier and Garda that have large U.S. shareholders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARTNERS

Long hunt for right match

Guy Laliberté said he was surprised to have lasted so long, having originally foreseen a 10-year run. He began to think about finding a strategic partner in 2006, and thought he found the right match two years later in Dubai World, a large real estate developer that quickly ran into financial difficulties. The latest sale process originally identified 94 potential partners. Eight finalists were chosen from those that responded with offers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, April 21, 2015

the big number

81.1%

That's how many Canadians are urbanites as of 2011 — a near-complete reversal of the ratio 150 years earlier, in 1861, when city dwellers comprised less than 16 per cent of pre-Confederation Canada. Among G8 countries, we're the third most urbanized, behind the U.K. and U.S. Among 15- to 29-year-olds, the current divide is even more pronounced: Only 17 per cent live in rural areas. Statistics Canada

Make transit stations the site of new development

YOUR RIDE
Kimberly Jones

Calgary is at a crossroads in determining how best it should grow.

Official plans call for more even development among new communities on the outskirts and more densification within the existing city limits. There appears to be increasing concern that continued growth solely on the outskirts of the city will lead to higher community-servicing costs, people living further and further away from where they work, shop, and play, and a transportation system that will be hard-pressed to meet capacity with roads and transit.

Transit-oriented development (TOD) offers a great opportunity to get serious about the commitment to redevelop within the existing city. TOD is defined by the city as development within 600 metres of a transit station (LRT or BRT) that is mixed-use, walkable, and higher density. This would allow more people to take transit, walk, or bike for many of their daily trips and allows for a better mix of housing types and locations.

On a recent trip to Vancouver, before the plane even landed, I noticed clusters of higher-density development surrounding the Skytrain stations. This type of development has proven to be a very successful and desirable building form.

One example is the area around the Joyce-Collingwood Skytrain station — 28 acres of former light-industrial and rail lands were converted to mixed-use, high-density development, completed in 2006. This development has provided an additional 2,700 living units as well as retail and community amenities.

We're lucky in that we have many existing LRT stations plotted in very low-density areas, some with city-owned land currently being used as surface parking for auto commuters. These represent substantial opportunities to pursue mixed-use, high-density development with minimal impact on the surrounding communities.

There has been some redevelopment around stations, but it has been slow in coming. Bridgeland has had a fair amount of development around its station and on its main street over the past 15 years, there are new condos in Brentwood, and there are larger TOD plans for some LRT stations, including Anderson.

Meanwhile, development around some existing stations remains highly car dependent — including car dealerships, big-box retail, and massive amounts of parking.

The city must commit to accelerating the existing redevelopment where it has the control or can encourage private landowners to do so, and shouldn't wait for the existing projects to be completed before pursuing more.

We are sitting on a goldmine of opportunity with a great centre-focused LRT system and many stations with redevelopment potential.

If we can move confidently toward developing these areas, we can provide a better mix of lifestyle choices for all Calgarians, and will only improve our mobility and our well-being one expertly designed, mixed-use community at a time.

Kimberly Jones has lived in Calgary for 35 years. She is a transportation advocate, particularly interested in walking and public transit, and studies urban issues and planning.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Fake guide dogs, and their lying, entitled, arrogant owners

Dear guide dog fraudsters.

I know you think you've been getting away with buying a fake guide-dog coat and parading into cafés and hotels, even onto planes, with your pet pooch Princess. I know, those jackets are as cheap and easy to buy online as, well, anything else.

Disability advocates like Bill Thornton, CEO of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, has had his phone ringing off the hook with complaints about fake guide dogs, he told me, like the restaurateur who wanted to know if it was normal for a guide dog to come into a restaurant, take a seat at a table, and eat a meal.

"This actually occurred," he told me, the disbelief still in his voice.

I know you think you've been getting away with it. But the guide-dog agencies are on to you. You're part of a rising problem of fake service dogs, they say, and now the B.C. government is doing something about it. A new law will soon require all guide-dog owners to carry a government-issued ID so that business owners can know for sure whether Princess is the real deal (something that already exists in Alberta).

But Thornton is most concerned about a potential backlash toward guide dogs and their owners, thanks to the likes of you and Princess.

Guide dogs are well-trained and well-behaved. Did you know that only about 50 per cent of the dogs Thornton's group trains actually get certified? The rules are tight to maintain public trust in service animals.

But Princess, as you know, has terrible manners. She barks, and she bites. And you're not much better.

Anytime someone calls you out for being a disability fraud, you become irate. Thornton hears about fraudster outbursts like yours all the time, he said.

It's unseemly, you know, on so many levels.

First, you are lying.

Second, you are playing on the sympathy of those too uncomfortable to question you about yappy, snappy Princess.

But third and worst of all, you are giving service dogs a bad name. If the public trust is broken, do you know who that hurts most? People who need dogs to see, hear, or detect an oncoming seizure.

B.C.'s Guide Dog and Service Dog act will make faking a guide dog an offence, with a fine up to $3,000 if you're caught. And I hope you are.

This isn't about Princess. This is all about you: Entitled, arrogant, narcissistic you.

Impersonating someone with a disability for your own petty gains? You can't get much lower than that, guide-dog fraudster.

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HBO goes to pot, scores the web comedy series High Maintenance

Sleeping Giant rouses Cannes

FILM FESTIVAL

Canadian director's first film to screen at French fest

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Andrew Cividino was eating alone at a restaurant when he looked at his phone and screamed "Oh my God!"

He looked a little crazy at that moment, but he hadn't actually lost his mind. He's a Canadian director who'd just learned his first feature film was selected to screen at the Cannes Film Festival.

"I was actually at a McDonald's, which is a confession, and I was eating a hamburger surrounded by all of these other people," he said. "I think if you scream, 'Oh my God!' on a phone call, people know that you're talking to another human being. But if you're just looking at your screen, it's really hard for people to understand that."

He was elated to learn his film Sleeping Giant is one of seven feature films in competition at the International Critics' Week at Cannes, which is devoted to honouring new directors' first or second feature-length films.

That week has launched the careers of many famous directors, including some of Cividino's favourites: Kevin Smith, Guillermo del Toro and Alejandro González Iñárritu.

Sleeping Giant is named for the Sibley Peninsula on Thunder Bay, where Cividino spent his summers growing up. His film is the story of a boy named Adam and his friends, pushing the boundaries of safety and their youthful authority over a summer there.

It's partly inspired by Cividino's own experiences jumping off the cliffs of the Sleeping Giant into Lake Superior.

"It was really insane, we would really push our boundaries to levels I would now consider to be quite unsafe, but at the time, it just seemed like the obvious, the only thing to be doing," he said.

"There's this Lord of the Flies stage of male adolescence that comes along with these destructive impulses and one way of testing your boundaries in the world is to destroy the world around you," he said. "That's where we follow the boys."

Nate (Nick Serino) at the wheel, Riley (Reece Moffett) in the passenger seat, and Adam (Jackson Martin) in the backseat, in a scene from Sleeping Giant. The Canadian film directed by Andrew Cividino has been selected to compete at Cannes. AARON YEGER

FINDING THE CAST

Film's lead a walk-in

Cividino found the actors in Thunder Bay by putting flyers up around town. Nick Serino, who plays Adam, walked into an audition without a script, appointment or acting credits.

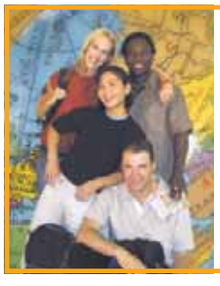
"He just said, 'I saw on Kijiji you guys had posted something. I'm here for the movie," Cividino said. "Within 30 seconds we knew this kid is so special."

Serino's cousin in real life, Reece Moffett, is one of the co-stars.

Cividino wanted the boys to use their own voices in the film, so he'd "workshop" the scenes with them rather than strictly sticking to the script.

"Some scenes are a lot more challenging because of that, but you end up with moments that you couldn't possibly have considered writing yourself, which just ring true and are hilarious."

Director Andrew Cividino. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO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Lighten up on the locker-room louts

GYM MANNERS

Sloths who strew sweaty clothes aren't your problem

URBAN ETIQUETTE

Ellen Vanstone

Dear Ellen,
One of my biggest pet peeves is walking into my gym's change room to find a pile of sweaty gym clothes left on the bench or on the ground. The gym has plenty of lockers, so I really don't understand why people would strip off to go shower and just leave their clothes — don't even get my started on the underwear — out for the world to see, and smell.
— Mike in Halifax

Slobs tend to be immune to threats, sighs, passive-aggressive remarks or outright begging for humane treatment of their locker-room neighbours. ISTOCK

Dear Mike,
The men you are dealing with are likely from the well-known subspecies Men Who Have Always Been Picked Up After (MWHABPUA). These are the lazy, overly entitled brats whose moms, caretakers, life- or roommates are happy to follow around, picking up soggy towels, wiping sprayed toothpaste spittle off mirrors, rinsing shaved-off stubble down the drain, and applying Polysporin to cuts on their own run-off feet after stepping on razor-sharp shards of the MWHABPUA's clipped toenails.

At least, I hope you are dealing with a MWHABPUA, because the alternative is even more disgusting — Men So In Love With Their Own Filth They Think Everyone Else Loves It Too (MSILWTOFTTEELIT). These men may also have been raised by people who picked up after them. Or maybe they were raised in a barn, by wolves. Either way, there's clearly no one picking up after them now, and believe me, they don't notice, much less care. These are the type of derelict jocks who leave their reeking gym duds all over the place while they shower, and then stuff everything into their lockers still damp and warm so it can breed more tiny bacterial monsters that will reek extra hard the next time they work out.

Do they think doing laundry is for sissies? Do they think this is how real men are supposed to smell? (It's not.) Did they get punched out one too many times and their deviated septums have killed all sense of smell?

Who knows? The important thing to realize with both MWHABPUA and MSILWTOFTTEELIT is that it's your problem, not theirs. Slobs of this calibre are immune to threats, sighs, passive-aggressive remarks or outright begging for humane treatment of their locker-room neighbours.

My advice is: Learn to love the louts. Now that mom's not around, you may be the only one who ever does ...

STUDY

Twitter helps predict ER visits for asthma

Researchers are leveraging the microblogging platform to predict the volume of asthma-related emergency room visits one Dallas hospital can expect on a given day.

Researchers at the University of Arizona (UA) and the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation in Dallas, Texas mined Twitter for information.

Their method involves monitoring air quality data using environmental sensors and scanning Twitter for posts with relevant key words such as "asthma," "inhaler" and "wheezing." Text-mining techniques are then used to hone in on the tweets from the zip codes where most of the hospital's patients live, according to electronic medical records. By analyzing the data, the researchers developed an algorithm that predicted with 75 per cent accuracy whether the emergency room could expect a low, medium or high number of asthma-related visits on a given day. These predictions allowed the hospital to be better prepared. AFP

By scanning Twitter for words like 'wheezing' researchers can predict asthma-related ER visits. AFP

RESEARCH

Tango steps help Parkinson's patients

The tango, that famous Argentine dance, could improve balance and functional mobility in those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, according to a recent Canadian study.

Researchers at the Montreal Neurological Institute of McGill University and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre found that tango lessons were linked with improved balance and functional mobility in Parkinson's patients, as well as modest benefits in terms of decreasing fatigue and boosting cognitive function.

Moreover, the tango participants in the study found the activity more enjoyable, and many of them saw improvements in their mood and social life.

However, no difference was observed between the group that did tango and the group that didn't in terms of overall motor function.

Typically danced at a fairly slow pace, the sensual Argentine social dance could help to improve balance thanks to its specific combination of rhythmic backward and forward steps. AFP

DISEASES

Pets may pose illness threat to children

Pets are a wellspring of love and joy for their owners. But they can also be a source of disease and should be chosen with care if someone in a household has health problems.

In a review article published in this week's Canadian Medical Association Journal, two veterinarians and a physician from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario discuss a variety of diseases people can get from pets. They make clear that in most cases, the risks to pet owners are low and the benefits of pet ownership are high. But there are some combinations of people and pets that don't make good sense.

In particular, young animals, like young children, are more likely to catch and spread germs. "It's like having that young child in the household," lead author Dr. Jason Stull, a veterinarian at Ohio State University, said in an interview.

"Young dogs and cats can be fantastic pets for the average person. But if there is an individual who is severely immunocompromised, that may not be the best choice."

Turtles, hedgehogs, baby chicks and frogs are known to have been the source of salmonella infections. Most people are unaware of the link between pets and human illness, Stull said. And that can be a problem when parents decide to get a pet for a child undergoing treatment for cancer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COVER TUNE

Imbruglia single is her first in years

The Australian singer-songwriter Natalie Imbruglia, who made it big in the late 1990s, is releasing her first single in six years on Monday.

The new single Instant Crush is from her upcoming cover album entitled Male, scheduled for release in July 2015.

Why has the female songstress opted for such a name? Like Instant Crush, which was first sung by Daft Punk and Julian Casablancas, all of the titles were first recorded by male artists.

Imbruglia told Mashable that she didn't want to touch songs previously sung by other women.

"I found it was more interesting to hear my vocals on songs done by men because it's different right away," she said.

This is not the first time Imbruglia has pursued cover music. Her first international hit single, Torn was a cover of the '90s rock band Ednaswap. AFP

Natalie Imbruglia. AFP

SIDELINE

Willie Nelson to roll out own brand of marijuana

Music legend Willie Nelson is jumping into the movement to commercialize marijuana and plans to roll out his own brand of cannabis that he intends to make "the best on the market."

The singer-songwriter announced in a statement Monday that Willie's Reserve will be grown and sold in Colorado and Washington, two states where recreational use of the drug is legal.

Nelson is a longtime supporter of marijuana for personal use and has spoken of its benefits for hemp production. He's also pushed for the end of laws criminalizing use of the drug. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro SPORTS

The Sharks and head coach Todd McLellan have agreed to part ways

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

What a difference a year makes for Flames winger

NHL

Ferland now playing role of gladiator vs. Canucks

Behind the emergence of Calgary Flames winger Michael Ferland in these NHL playoffs is the story of a young man unburdening and healing himself.

Ferland announced on Twitter and also to reporters March 27 that he was marking a year of sobriety. Two days later, he scored his first NHL goal and a game-winner in Nashville.

His confidence on and off the ice, along with his role on the team, has expanded since then. Ferland looks people in the eye when he tells them about a difficult journey to a brighter future.

"A year ago I was in rehab," Ferland said Monday on his 23rd birthday. "I didn't think I'd be playing in the Stanley Cup playoffs right now that's for sure.

"People always told me when I was getting help, 'You'll see your life unfold in front of you. It'll be the best thing for you.' I never really understood it, but now my life is kind of starting to unfold right in front of me, I'm enjoying it."

In the first three NHL playoff games of his career, the six-foot-two, 215-pound Manitoban has been the hardest Flame to play against. He's also finding where the line is between helping and hurting his team.

Ferland was a wrecking ball with eight hits in Sunday's 4-2 win over the Vancouver Canucks. He looked ready to drop the gloves with Derek Dorsett at one point, but thought better of it after incurring a penalty for doing the same in Game 1.

"I don't want to take it too far and cross the line, but at the same time I want to play hard and finish out my hits," Ferland said.

Calgary leads the Western Conference quarter-final series two games to one. Game 4 is at Scotiabank Saddledome on Tuesday followed by Game 5 in Vancouver on Thursday.

Officials separate the Flames' Michael Ferland and the Canucks' Kevin Bieksa during Game 3 of their first-round playoff series on Sunday night at the Scotiabank Saddledome. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SERIES NOTES

- As the NHL did for Flames defenceman Deryk Engelland in Game 2 of the series, the league rescinded Vancouver's Alex Burrows' instigator penalty in the last five minutes Sunday so there will not be a suspension.
- The Flames recalled goaltender Joni Ortio from Adirondack on Monday.

A Lance Bouma injury in the last home game of the regular season opened the door for Ferland to play more minutes.

Given the ornery turn in the series, Ferland stepping into the role of gladiator is a welcome addition for the Flames, who won games with speed and fitness during the regular season. Ferland has helped dial up their truculence and intimidation for the post-season.

"Finishing his checks and being hard to play against, he's brought it," linemate David Jones said. "He's really elevated it even beyond what I think we expected.

"He's been a huge key for us, especially last night. He had eight or nine hits, which is great. Hopefully those guys are feeling it a little bit today."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Red Sox weather rain to beat O's

Justin Masterson benefited from five unearned runs, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-1 Monday in a soggy Patriots' Day game shortened by rain to 6-1/2 innings.

With the score tied at 1, Boston scored four runs in the third when Wei-Yin Chen (0-1) walked four and made an error, and third baseman Manny Machado committed another error.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARATHON RUNNING

Desisa wins for 2nd time in Boston

Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia won his second Boston Marathon on Monday, two years after he donated the medal from his first victory to the city in memory of the bombing victims.

Kenya's Carolina Rotich was the women's champion, outsprinting Mare Dibaba down Boylston Street to win by four seconds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA PLAYOFFS

Butler boosts Bulls by Bucks

Jimmy Butler set a playoff career-high for the second straight game with 31 points, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Milwaukee Bucks 91-82 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

After scoring 25 points in Game 1, Butler trumped that with another terrific performance with 14 points coming in the fourth quarter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blues blanked by Dubnyk and Wild

Devan Dubnyk made 17 saves and Jason Pominville and Zach Parise scored second-period goals and the Minnesota Wild earned a 3-0 victory over the St. Louis Blues in Game 3 of their Western Conference series on Monday.

Mikael Granlund had two assists, Nino Niederreiter added an empty-netter and the Wild had the edge in every way, without being drawn into a single trip to the penalty box.

St. Louis' Jake Allen stopped 21 shots, with the over-capacity crowd taunting him with chants of his last name throughout the game.

Game 4 is in Minnesota on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9

The Blues have lost nine straight road games in the playoffs

IN BRIEF

Cocaine, ecstasy found on Stoll, police say

Los Angeles Kings centre Jarret Stoll is accused of having cocaine and Ecstasy with him when he was arrested Friday on a felony drug charge, police said. Security guards conducting a routine search at a Las Vegas Strip resort swimming pool found what investigators believe to be 3.3 grams of cocaine and several capsules in the back pocket of Stoll's shorts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

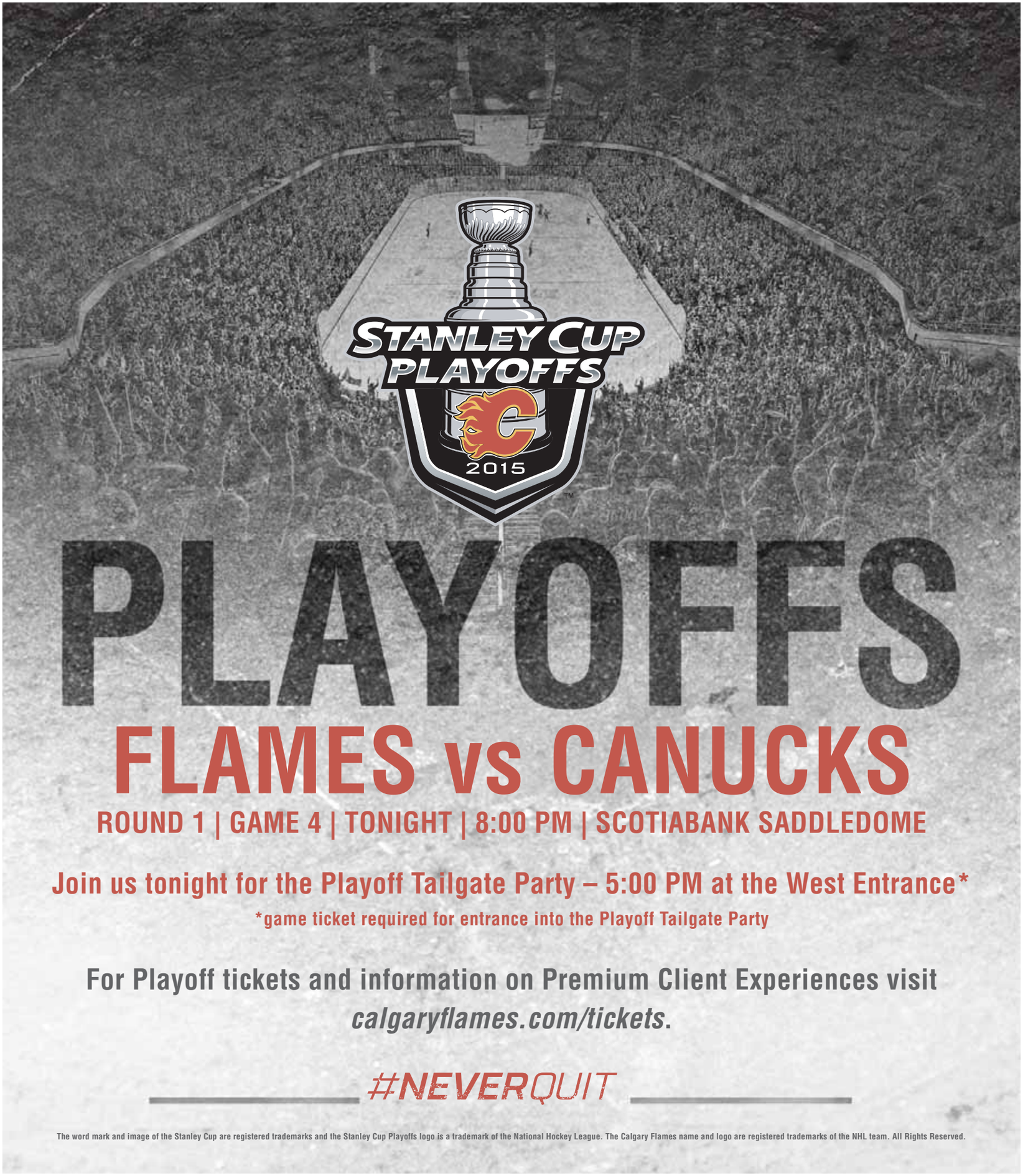
King Henrik and Rangers stifle Pens

Henrik Lundqvist stopped 23 shots and the New York Rangers regained control of their first-round series against the Pittsburgh Penguins with a 2-1 win in Game 3 on Tuesday night.

Carl Hagelin and Chris Kreider scored for New York, which dominated for two periods then held on late to take a 2-1 series lead. Patric Hornqvist scored for the Penguins.

Game 4 is Wednesday in Pittsburgh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Rangers' Henrik Lundqvist sprawls to make a save on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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RECIPE Frittata with Sautéed Mushrooms and Havarti

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 14

Ingredients
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 tsp chopped garlic
- 3/4 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup egg substitute (or 2 large eggs)
- 3 egg whites
- 1/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1 cup fresh baby spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded Havarti
- 2 Tbsp chopped parsley

Directions

1. Lightly coat a small nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Add the oil and set over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms and red pepper and cook for 5 minutes just until mushrooms are dry. Set aside.

2. Wipe out the skillet and respray. Combine the egg substitute, egg whites and milk. Cook for 4 minutes over medium heat or until the egg begins to set. Add the onion and mushroom mixture, spinach and cheese. Cover and cook another 2 minutes, or until the cheese melts

3. Slip the frittata onto a serving platter with a spatula. Cut into wedges, garnish with parsley and serve immediately

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 205
- Protein 19 g
- Carbohydrates 8 g
- Fiber 1.3 g
- Total fat 10.4 g
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- Cholesterol 17 mg
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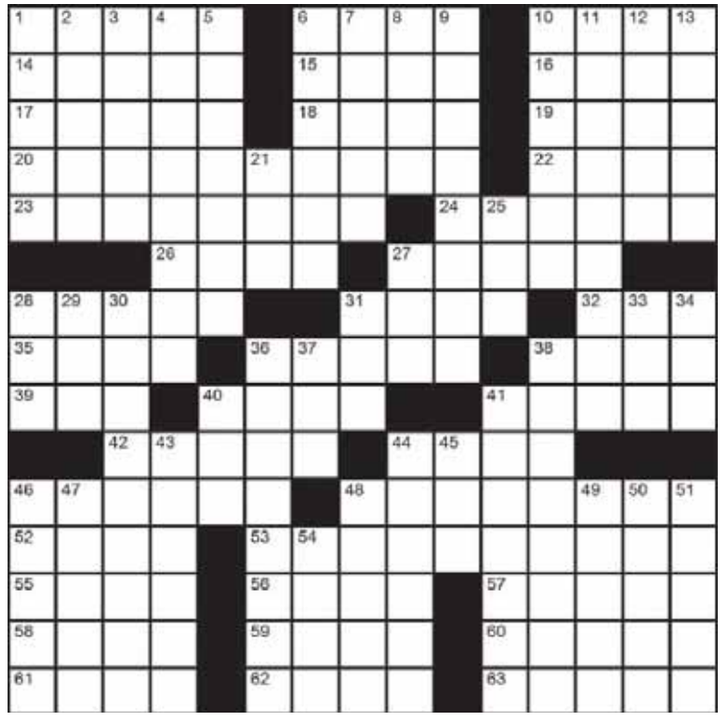
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



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17. Collect-and-collect...
18. Above
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20. Product by since-1959 Canadian brand Rougemont: 2 wds.
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23. Liquidy lawn: 2 wds.
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26. Irritate
27. Nod
28. "Dracula Has __ from the Grave" (1968)
31. Closed
32. Plank parter
35. Greyish
36. Creature on a highway crossing sign
38. Homer Simpson's mom
39. Jeannie C. Riley hit: "Harper Valley _-_-_"
40. Crow cries
41. Does darning
42. AIR-ihk __-suhn (Captain of the Ottawa Senators, as per the little pronunciation key under the names of NHL players)
44. Rime
46. Tiredness cause in some
48. Toronto Blue Jays right fielder Jose
52. Rob of reels
53. They contain backstage specifications for rockers: 2 wds.
55. Kitchen appliance
56. Dickens character, with Uriah
57. Ms. Munster's
58. Had in hand
59. Never, __ __ account
60. Devil
61. Shakespeare title starter
62. Time for lunch
63. _ __ home is his castle

DOWN
1. "Absurd!"
2. "Not _ __ in hell!"
3. Jumped
4. Tea blend: 2 wds.
5. Select from a takeout menu: 2 wds.
6. "Canada AM" movie critic Richard
7. Quebec city
8. "__ plaisir!" (Gladly, in Montreal)
9. Dominican Republic music/dance style
10. Make
11. Jeff __ (Weather/sports anchor on "Canada AM")
12. Family in "Gone with the Wind" (1939)
13. Mr. Welles
21. Flier to Narita Intl. Airport
25. Painter's pride
27. "Fancy that!" [pl.]
28. Knock at the door
29. 'Capital' suffix
30. __ __ Before Serving (Carton instruction)
31. ABBA song
33. Furthermore
34. Occurred
36. Event of endurance
37. Nocturnal bird
38. The 'M' of CTV's "Canada AM"
40. Ill. city
41. Song of Australia: "Waltzing __"
43. Betters
44. Critically dwell: 2 wds.
45. 'O' of Canadian band OLP
46. Hawaiian greeting
47. Bestselling work
48. Good: Spanish
49. Actress Ms. Blair
50. Check the dress for fit: 2 wds.
51. Organizations, briefly
54. Vintner's prefix

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You want to make a useful contribution to what's going on around you but the only way you can do that is to join with other people. You can be a loner if you wish but you will get more done if you are not so aloof

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It's time to finish those tasks that should have been completed a long time ago. The Sun in your sign means your energy levels will peak over the next few days, so get on top of your workload.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Work will be the dominant theme later in the week, so make the most of your freedom to come and go as you please now. As a Gemini you like to get out and about and meet new people — so what are you waiting for?

Cancer June 22 - July 23
One of the most trying periods of the year has come to an end and you managed to survive! You may be in the mood to celebrate but don't go over the top. The planets warn you need to stay out of trouble today.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Tell everyone what they want to hear today, even if you don't believe a word of it and even if you don't believe they believe it either. You are not in the mood for arguments.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You must question everything you hear today, because the planets warn that some of the things you will be told are designed to mislead you rather than inform you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make your own value judgments today. What others say may be interesting but it is essential that you follow your instincts rather than follow the herd.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Quite likely you will say or do something silly today but it's no big deal. In fact it will most likely endear you to people who previously thought of you as a bit too perfect and self-controlled. Seems you're human after all!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find yourself in just the right place at just the right time to do something worthwhile today. Make the most of it — it won't always be this easy.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus at this time of year makes all things possible, for you at least, so don't limit yourself to petty ambitions. Go for gold.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Friends may know you need assistance but they won't lift a finger to help you unless you ask them to. That may annoy you a bit but most likely it's your own fault. They've been told off before for interfering in your affairs

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will be confronted with a very tough challenge today and you will deal with it with ease. That might surprise those people who have only ever seen the softer side of your nature but there is a core of steel running through the Pisces personality.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		5		8	6			
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